

HSMHA ENCOURAGES DIALOG WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Health Services and Mental Health Administration, as the Federal health agency concerned with the delivery of health services, is not simply a collection of programs. It is rather a composite of those programs. Each of its components contributes to a common mission of fulfilling HSMHA's responsibility in the health care field. The test of our performance as an agency will be whether or not we can make the total impact of our efforts greater than the sum of the parts. I believe we can, and that our modest 2½ percent of the national health investment can have a catalytic effect on the system as a whole, to the benefit of the people that system seeks to serve.

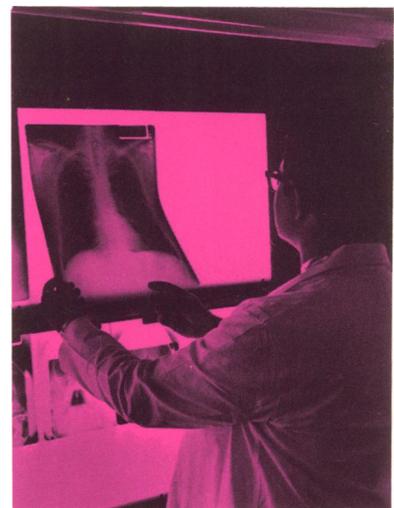
The proof of our labors will be in the communities where those people live. That is where the decisions are made that determine access and quality of health care. So that we in HSHMA can be more responsive to this need for decentralized decision making, we are taking definitive steps to make our 10 regional offices effective in their response.

And further, we are taking steps to assure that HSMHA itself is responsive wherever and whenever needs arise. I feel strongly the need for continuous and candid dialog with the health professionals who make health care happen. If we don't talk to each other, you may not do your job quite as well as you might, and we can't do ours at all.

My telephone number is area code 301—443—2216. That number will be answered, not just during the 40-hour government week but throughout the 168-hour week that the health care system operates on. A member of the top administrative staff of HSMHA will always be available by telephone to assist you. I hope you will use that number. We plan to be ringing yours.

VERNON E. WILSON, M.D.
Administrator, Health Services and
Mental Health Administration

Cover—Physician's assistants trained at Duke University are now working at Veterans' Administration hospitals.



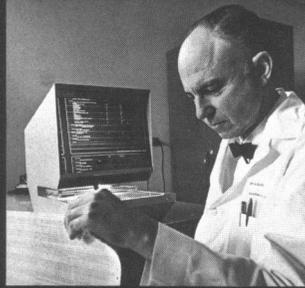
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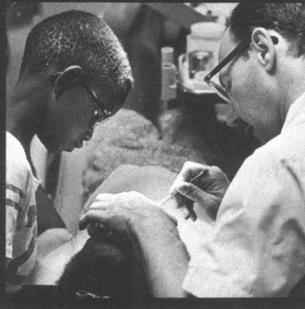
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